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Forestry Mimeograph No. 28

EFFECTS OF SHEARING ON LATERAL STEMS PRODUCED ON THE MAIN AXIS OF SCOTCH PINE (Riga strain)

by

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In Mimeograph No. 26[1]/ from this department, the treatment of the Scotch pine trees was described. This paper will attempt to evaluate the effects of shearing on lateral stem development with regard to season and number of annual shearings.

In general, the number of lateral branches produced on the main axis was greater the following season after shearing, as compared to the unsheared trees (Fig. 1).

Seasonal Shearings in 1952

All of the trees sheared in 1952, irrespective of the season, showed an increase over the control in the number of lateral stems on the main axis in 1953 (Fig. 1-A).

The trees sheared in June, July, and November gave comparable results of increased lateral stems on the main axis from 65% to 120% over the controls. However, those trees sheared in December showed only a 12% increase in laterals formed over the controls.

June Shearings

June shearings whether conducted in only one year, in successive years, or alternate years showed approximately the same increase in laterals developed the following year over the control trees (Fig. 1-B).

The above results show that the number of lateral stems produced on the main axis of Scotch pine can be greatly increased when sheared during the period of June to November. December shearings result in a slight increase in the number of laterals developed on the main axis over the control.

1/ Hacskaylo, John. 1956. Tree Form of Scotch Pine as Affected by Shearing. For. Mimeo. No. 26, O.A.E.S., Wooster, Ohio.

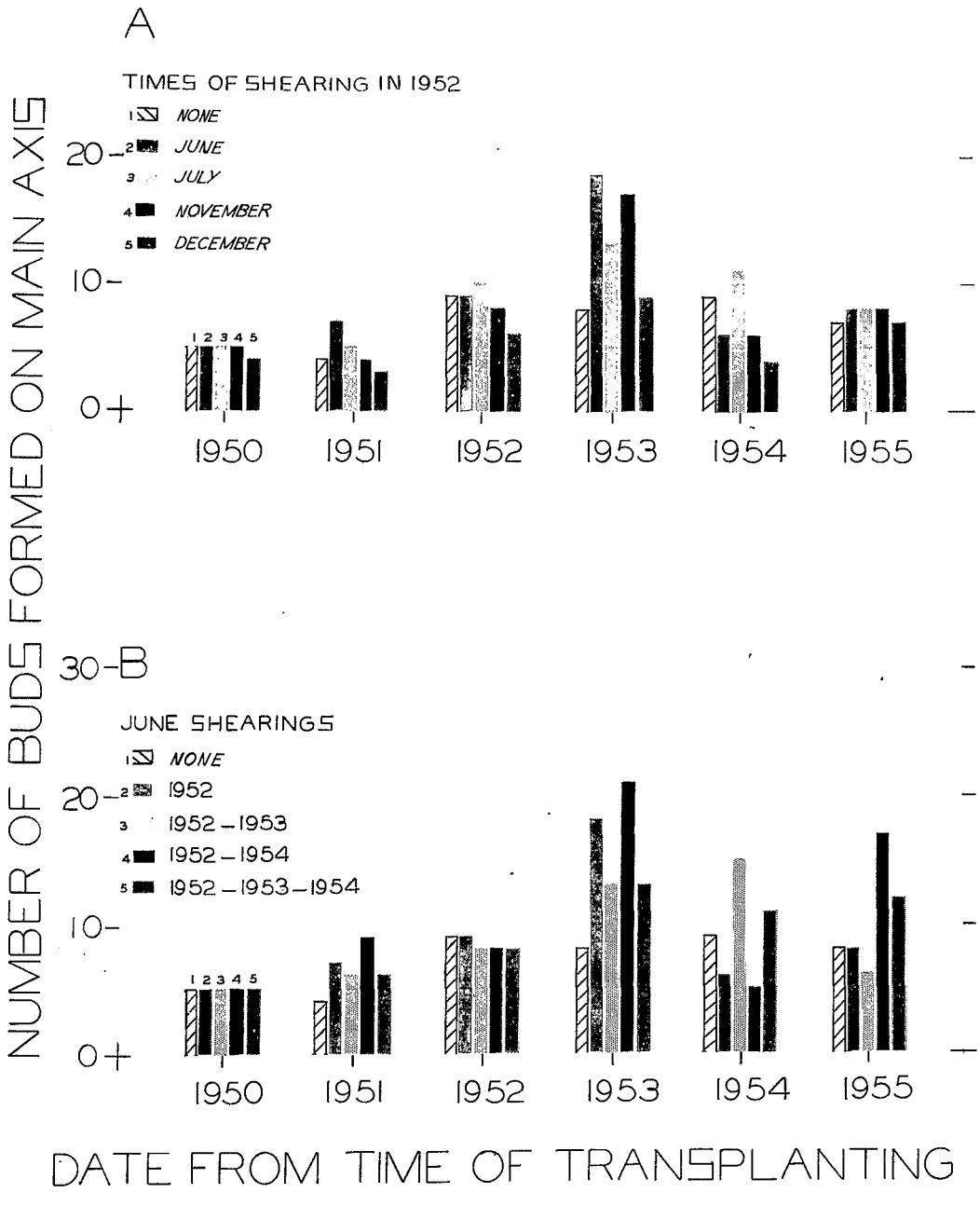

FIG. I. EFFECTS OF SHEARING ON THE PRODUCTION OF LATERAL TWIGS FORMED ON THE MAIN AXIS